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(54) Title: BUSINESS ALLIANCE IDENTIFICATION

(57) Abstract: A system, method and article of manufacture are provided for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in components of a network framework. First, alliances are identified among a plurality of business entities in terms of components of a current network framework. Next, a pictorial representation is displayed of the current network framework and the components. The alliances are then conveyed by indicia coding the components of the current network framework in which the alliances exist.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 G06F17/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 870 555 A (PRUETT ET AL.) 9 February 1999 (1999-02-09) the whole document -----	1-19



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

### Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5870555      A	09-02-1999	NONE	